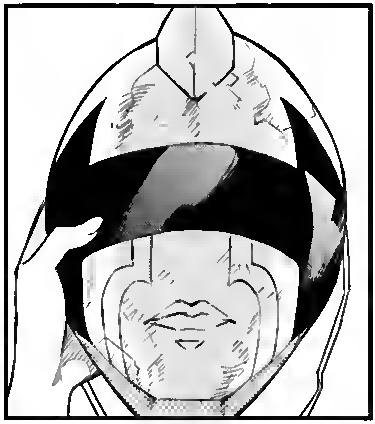
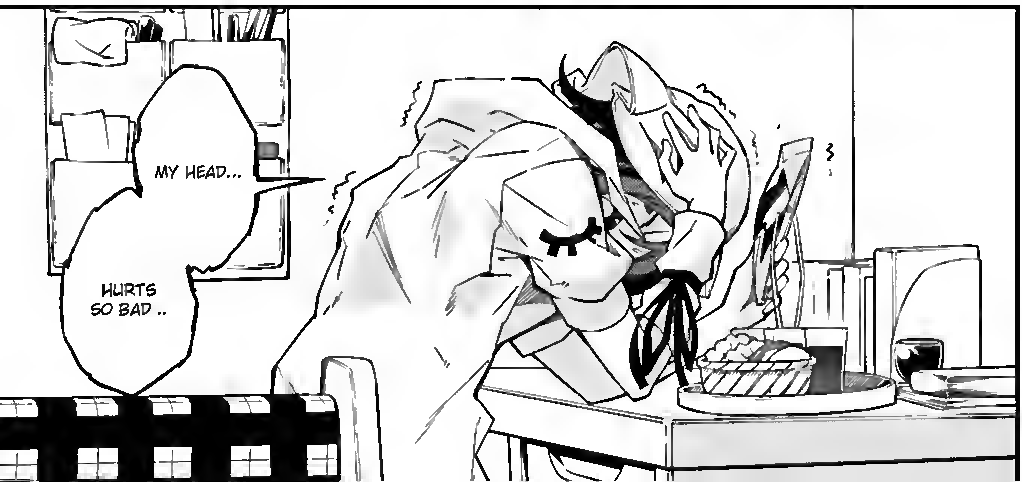
REM98 Key to What is Sought

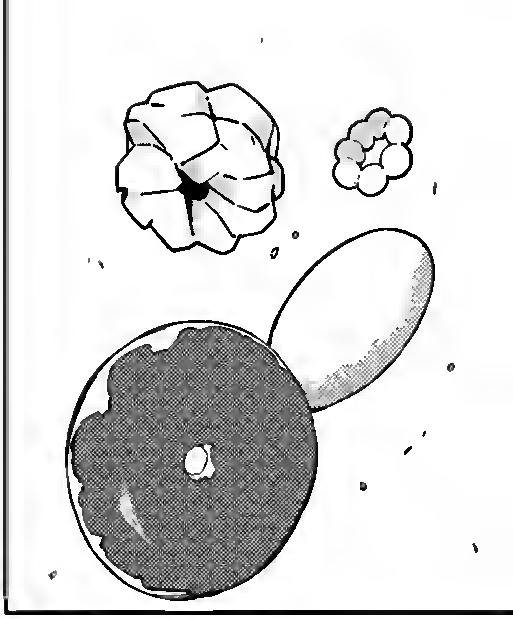




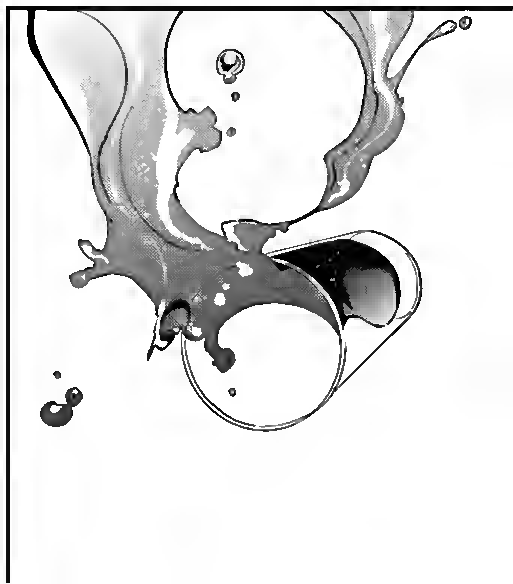
... WHO?
DON'T FORGET!
THIS IS THE PROOF
OF THE PROMISE WE'VE MADE.

WHAT DOES THAT EVEN MEAN?
SFX: Pain
WILL YOU COME SEE ME AGAIN?
WHAT DOES ANY OF THIS MEAN?!
I'LL FORGET ANYWAY.
SO YOU'RE GONNA TELL ME THE TRUTH.
OKAY, MASK.
YOU'VE... SEEN IT ALL, HAVEN'T YOU?
DON'T FORGET!

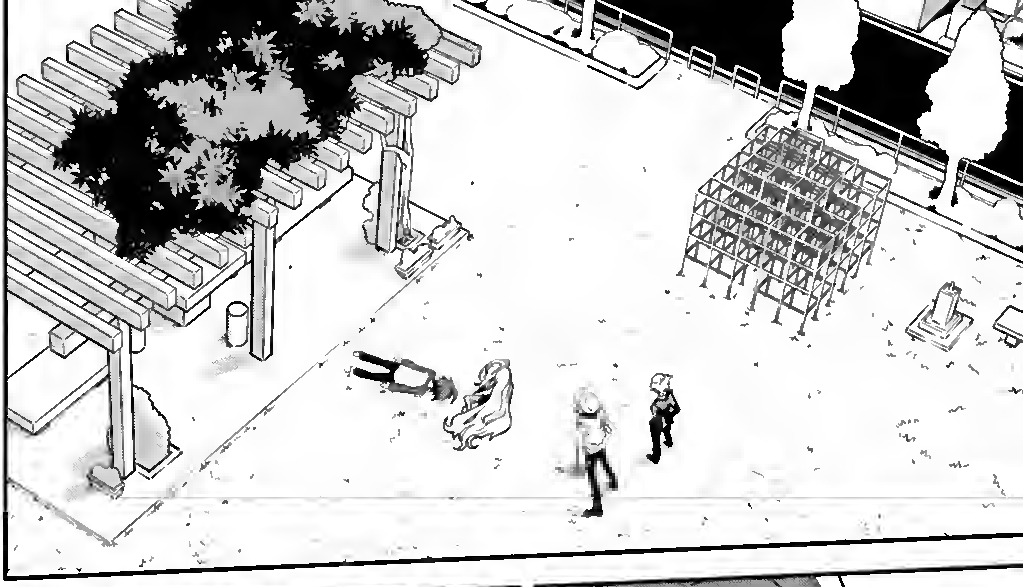
I WANNA TRY EATING THOSE XXXXS.

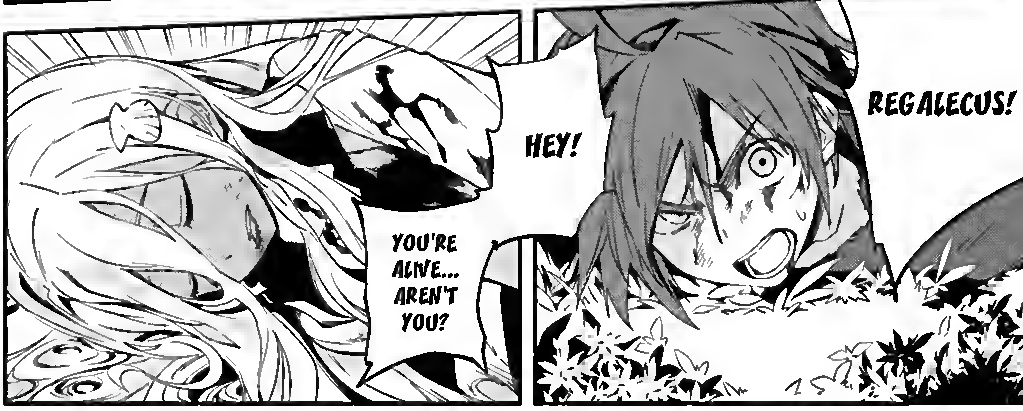


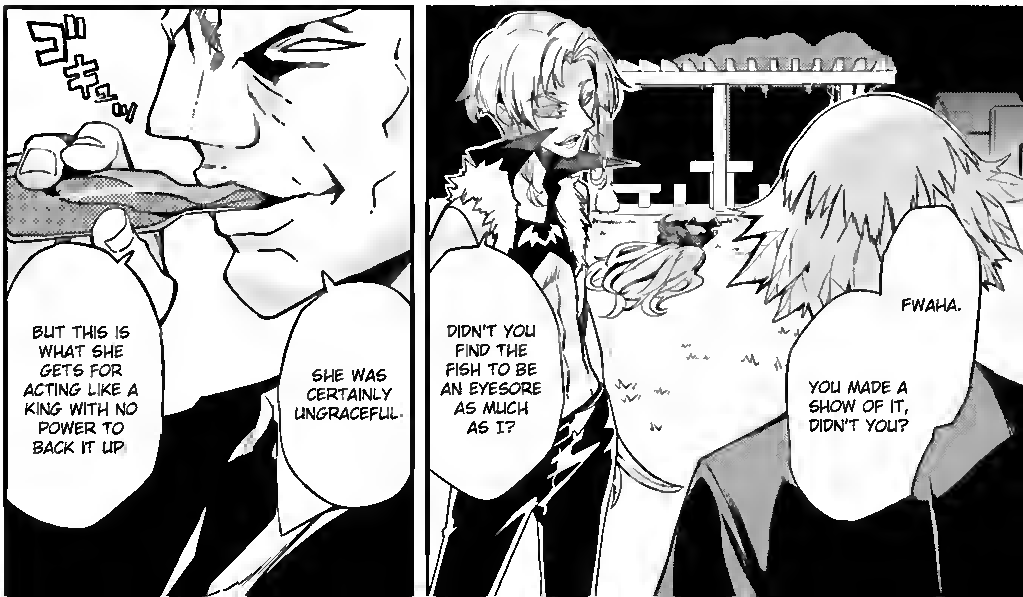
XXXXS? WHAT DO THOSE TASTE LIKE?



GOOD MORNING.
WE'RE FRIENDS, REMEMBER THAT!




REGALECUS!
HEY!
YOU'RE ALIVE... AREN'T YOU?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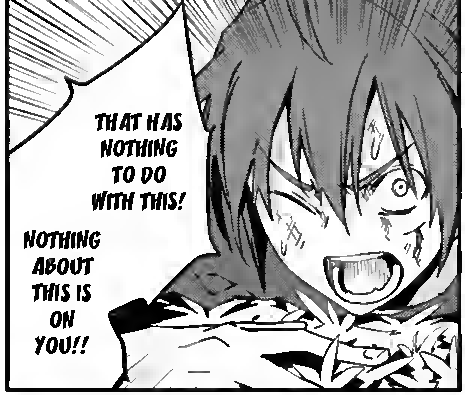
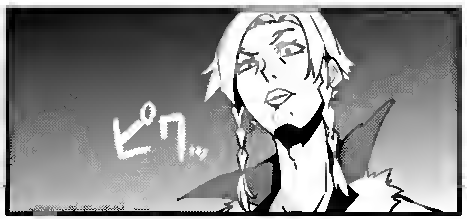
BUT THIS IS WHAT SHE GETS FOR ACTING LIKE A KING WITH NO POWER TO BACK IT UP
SHE WAS CERTAINLY UNGRACEFUL.
DIDN'T YOU FIND THE FISH TO BE AN EYESORE AS MUCH AS I?
FWAHA.
YOU MADE A SHOW OF IT, DIDN'T YOU?

ELDER, MIND IF I TAKE YUMEJI-CHAN OFF YOUR HANDS?
I'VE HAD MY FUN WITH HIM.
HAVE HIM AS YOU WILL.
DON'T MIND IF I DO... OR SO I'D LIKE TO SAY,
BUT WHAT SHOULD I DO ABOUT THIS LITTLE GIRL?
YOU IDIOT!
ISANA!! DIDN'T I TELL YOU TO GET AWAY FROM HERE?!
BUT IT'S MY FAULT ALL THIS HAP-PENED...!!
ガシッ


THAT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THIS!
NOTHING ABOUT THIS IS ON YOU!!

WE'RE IN THIS MESS ALL BECAUSE I DIDN'T TELL YOU ABOUT SHIRAGI-KUN EARLIER!!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DEPENDING ON THE CONTENTS OF YOUR STORY, I MIGHT BE WILLING TO SPARE YOU. HOW ABOUT IT?
WHAT ABOUT KYOU-SAMA? I MIGHT LIKE TO HEAR WHAT YOU HAVE TO SAY.
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...WHEN I WAS LITTLE,

YUMEJI AND I CAME TO PLAY HERE ONE DAY.
YUMEJI HAD BEEN WEARING A MASK FOR PRETTY MUCH THE WHOLE DAY.
IT WAS YUMEJI'S FAVORITE THING BACK THEN, SO I DIDN'T REALLY PAY IT ANY MIND AT THE TIME
I WENT TO CLIMB THAT JUNGLE GYM AT ONE POINT,
BUT MY FOOT SLIPPED ..

AND YUMEJI CAME TO CATCH ME.
...BUT WHEN THAT HAPPENED,
HE CUT OPEN HIS RIGHT WRIST...!
HIS RIGHT WRIST?
YUMEJI DOESN'T REMEMBER THAT HAPPENING, AND I'VE ALWAYS FOUND THAT STRANGE.
...BUT I JUST STOPPED WORRYING ABOUT IT EVENTU-ALLY!
HIS VOICE WAS STILL THE SAME.
AND WHEN HE TOOK OFF THE MASK, IT WAS THE SAME OLD FACE.
...BUT NOW I UNDER-STAND.
IT WAS THE PERSON "INSIDE" HIM THAT WAS DIFFERENT.
THE YUMEJI I PLAYED WITH THAT DAY WAS SHIRAGI-KUN...!

...I FIGURE YOU KNOW THIS BY NOW,
BUT WHEN A NIGHTMARE'S "VESSEL" IS DAMAGED, SO TOO IS THE NIGHTMARE HIMSELF.
MEANING THAT THE RESPONSIBILITY OF INJURING KYOU-SAMA LIES SQUARELY ON YOUR SHOULDERS, GIRL.
SHIT...
ISANA!
IT LOOKS LIKE I...
ギラ...
AM GOING TO HAVE TO KILL YOU AFTER ALL.
RUN!!

チュイン
...HEH
HOW DARE YOU STRIKE THE BODY KYOU-SAMA GAVE ME...
THIS TIME I'LL MAKE SURE YOU'RE DEAD.
ビキ
ビキッ

I'LL TAKE THE FULL BRUNT OF WHATEVER YOU CAN THROW AT ME...
THAT'S WHAT IT MEANS TO RULE!!
REGALECUS ...!
THAT GIRL IS ANOTHER OF MY FOLLOWERS!
I WON'T ALLOW YOU TO LAY A FINGER ON HER!

I FEAR NEITHER YOU NOR DEATH!

AS MUCH "FUNCTIONALITY" AS A CORPSE MIGHT HAVE.
Sigh...
YOU'RE HARDLY MORE THAN A SPEARED FISH OUT OF WATER.
FILTHY LITTLE MINNOW
I SUPPOSE I MUST BESTOW SOME "FUNCTIONAL BEAUTY" UPON YOU BOORS.

YUMEJI.
CAN YOU STAND?
DESPITE MY WORDS, I'M NOT QUITE FIT TO FIGHT.
I'D MUCH APPRECIATE YOUR HELP.
AREN'T I YOUR FOLLOWER?
GIVE ME THE ORDER.
I'LL DO WHATEVER YOU ASK.

THEN STAND!
AND DON'T YOU DARE DIE!
YOU GOT IT!!
FLOUNDERING AROUND IN AN ATTEMPT TO SAVE YOUR DOOMED WORLD AND HUMANITY. IS THE EPITOME OF VANITY.
ANOTHER CHANCE TO DERIVE SOME ENTERTAINMENT FROM THEM.
IT'S TIME TO FEAST AGAIN.

THIS IS MY ORDER!!
TAKE THEM DOWN WITH ME!!
LET'S DO THIS, PRINCESS!!

SOME
TIME AGO,

THE WORLD OF DREAMS IN SLUMBER WERE MONO-CHROME.
COL-OR-LESS.
A WORLD OF, QUITE LITERALLY, BLACK AND WHITE.

WAIT . WHAT WAS I DOING JUST NOW?
HUH?
I FEEL LIKE I WAS DOING SOMETHING WITH SOMEONE...
IN SOME ROOM... SOMEWHERE.
AND I FEEL LIKE I HIT MY HEAD ON SOMETHING
MAYBE I WAS JUST HAVING A DREAM. WITHIN A DREAM, EVEN!
SO WEIRD.
BUT I'M THE "GATE-KEEPER".
I CAN'T GO ANYWHERE OUTSIDE OF THIS PLACE.
AND NOBODY ELSE EVER COMES HERE, EITHER.

ビクッ
WHAM
WHA?
WHAT?
HUH?
WHAAAAAAT?!

SOME TIME AGO,
OWWWW...
THIS WAS A MONO-CHROME WORLD.
... HOWEVER,
WHERE AM I?

SUDDENLY, ONE DAY...
WHO ARE YOU?
AND WHY ARE YOU HERE?

COLOR CAME TO THE DREAM WORLD.
THAT'S WHAT I WANT TO ASK YOU.

夢喰いメリー